

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A method for facilitating participation in a slot game, comprising:

presenting a display grid comprising a plurality of active display segments;

presenting symbols in each of the active display segments that have not expired;

deactivating the active display segments that have expired in response to at least one randomly-selected expiration parameter, wherein the randomly-selected expiration parameter comprises an expiration count;

repeatedly presenting symbols in each of the active display segments, and deactivating the active display segments that have expired, until a predetermined number of the active display segments have been deactivated; and

wherein a quantity of the expiration count is at least partly influenced by a wager input.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising randomly selecting award amounts from a table of alternative award amounts, wherein randomly selecting award amounts comprises selecting a number of award amounts corresponding to the expiration count.

8. (previously presented) A method for facilitating participation in a slot game, comprising:
- presenting a display grid comprising a plurality of active display segments;
 - presenting symbols in each of the active display segments that have not expired;
 - deactivating the active display segments that have expired in response to at least one randomly-selected expiration parameter, wherein the randomly-selected expiration parameter comprises an expiration time duration; and
 - repeatedly presenting symbols in each of the active display segments, and deactivating the active display segments that have expired, until a predetermined number of the active display segments have been deactivated.
9. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein a quantity of the expiration time duration is at least partly influenced by a wager input.
10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising revealing the randomly-selected expiration parameter to the participant prior to presenting the symbols in each of the active display segments.
11. (canceled)
12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising randomly selecting the at least one expiration parameter by randomly selecting the expiration parameter from a table of alternative expiration parameters.
13. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein randomly selecting the expiration parameter comprises randomly selecting a plurality of expiration parameters with replacement.
14. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein randomly selecting the expiration parameter comprises randomly selecting a plurality of expiration parameters without replacement.

15. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein randomly selecting the expiration parameter comprises randomly selecting the expiration parameter from separate tables of alternative expiration parameters for each of the active display segments.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising randomly selecting the at least one expiration parameter using an equal probability distribution for each alternative expiration parameter option.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising randomly selecting the at least one expiration parameter using a weighted probability distribution for each alternative expiration parameter option.

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) A method for facilitating participation in a slot game, comprising:

- presenting a display grid comprising a plurality of active display segments;
- presenting symbols in each of the active display segments that have not expired;
- deactivating the active display segments that have expired in response to at least one randomly-selected expiration parameter;
- identifying the randomly-selected expiration parameter prior to presenting the symbols in the active display segments; and
- repeatedly presenting symbols in each of the active display segments, and deactivating the active display segments that have expired, until a predetermined number of the active display segments have been deactivated; and
- wherein identifying the randomly-selected expiration parameter prior to presenting the symbols comprises facilitating participant selection of the randomly-selected expiration parameter.

20. (original) The method of Claim 19, further comprising facilitating participant association between particular active display segments and a corresponding randomly-selected expiration parameter.

21. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein identifying the randomly-selected expiration parameter prior to presenting the symbols comprises automatically selecting the randomly-selected expiration parameter without participant intervention.

22. (original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising individually associating a plurality of randomly-selected expiration parameters with a plurality of the active display segments.

23. (original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising associating one randomly-selected expiration parameter with a plurality of the active display segments.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) A method for facilitating participation in a slot game, comprising:

- presenting a display grid comprising a plurality of active display segments;
- presenting symbols in each of the active display segments that have not expired;
- deactivating the active display segments that have expired in response to at least one randomly-selected expiration parameter, wherein the randomly-selected expiration parameter comprises an expiration count and an expiration time duration; and
- repeatedly presenting symbols in each of the active display segments, and deactivating the active display segments that have expired, until a predetermined number of the active display segments have been deactivated.

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)
28. (canceled)
29. (canceled)
30. (canceled)
31. (canceled)
32. (canceled)
33. (previously presented) A method for facilitating participation in a slot game, comprising:
presenting a mechanical reel configuration comprising a plurality of active reel segments;
presenting symbols in each of the active reel segments that have not expired;
deactivating the active reel segments that have expired in response to at least one randomly-selected expiration parameter, wherein the randomly-selected expiration parameter comprises an expiration count;
repeatedly presenting symbols in each of the active reel segments, and
deactivating the active reel segments that have expired, until a predetermined number of the active reel segments have been deactivated; and
wherein a quantity of the expiration count is at least partly influenced by a wager input.
34. (canceled)
35. (previously presented) The method of Claim 33, further comprising randomly selecting award amounts from a table of alternative award amounts, wherein randomly selecting

award amounts comprises selecting a number of award amounts corresponding to the expiration count.

36. (previously presented) A method for facilitating participation in a slot game, comprising:

presenting a mechanical reel configuration comprising a plurality of active reel segments;

presenting symbols in each of the active reel segments that have not expired;

deactivating the active reel segments that have expired in response to at least one randomly-selected expiration parameter wherein the randomly-selected expiration parameter comprises an expiration time duration; and

repeatedly presenting symbols in each of the active reel segments, and deactivating the active reel segments that have expired, until a predetermined number of the active reel segments have been deactivated.

37. (original) The method of Claim 36, wherein a quantity of the expiration time duration is at least partly influenced by a wager input.

38. (previously presented) The method of Claim 36, further comprising revealing the randomly-selected expiration parameter to the participant prior to presenting the symbols in each of the active reel segments.

39. (canceled)

40. (previously presented) The method of Claim 36, further comprising randomly selecting the at least one expiration parameter by randomly selecting the expiration parameter from a table of alternative expiration parameters.

41. (original) The method of Claim 40, wherein randomly selecting the expiration parameter comprises randomly selecting a plurality of expiration parameters with replacement.

42. (original) The method of Claim 40, wherein randomly selecting the expiration parameter comprises randomly selecting a plurality of expiration parameters without replacement.

43. (original) The method of Claim 40, wherein randomly selecting the expiration parameter comprises randomly selecting the expiration parameter from separate tables of alternative expiration parameters for each of the active reel segments.

44. (previously presented) The method of Claim 36, further comprising randomly selecting the at least one expiration parameter using an equal probability distribution for each alternative expiration parameter option.

45. (previously presented) The method of Claim 36, further comprising randomly selecting the at least one expiration parameter using a weighted probability distribution for each alternative expiration parameter option.

46. (previously presented) The method of Claim 36, further comprising identifying the randomly-selected expiration parameter prior to presenting the symbols in the active reel segments.

47. (previously presented) A method for facilitating participation in a slot game, comprising:

- presenting a mechanical reel configuration comprising a plurality of active reel segments;
- presenting symbols in each of the active reel segments that have not expired;
- deactivating the active reel segments that have expired in response to at least one randomly-selected expiration parameter;
- repeatedly presenting symbols in each of the active reel segments, and
- deactivating the active reel segments that have expired, until a predetermined number of the active reel segments have been deactivated;

identifying the randomly-selected expiration parameter prior to presenting the symbols in the active reel segments; and

wherein identifying the randomly-selected expiration parameter prior to presenting the symbols comprises facilitating participant selection of the randomly-selected expiration parameter.

48. (original) The method of Claim 47, further comprising facilitating participant association between particular active reel segments and a corresponding randomly-selected expiration parameter.

49. (original) The method of Claim 46, wherein identifying the randomly-selected expiration parameter prior to presenting the symbols comprises automatically selecting the randomly-selected expiration parameter without participant intervention.

50. (original) The method of Claim 49, further comprising individually associating a plurality of randomly-selected expiration parameters with a plurality of the active reel segments.

51. (original) The method of Claim 49, further comprising associating one randomly-selected expiration parameter with a plurality of the active reel segments.

52. (canceled)

53. (previously presented) A method for facilitating participation in a slot game, comprising:

presenting a mechanical reel configuration comprising a plurality of active reel segments;

presenting symbols in each of the active reel segments that have not expired;

deactivating the active reel segments that have expired in response to at least one randomly-selected expiration parameter wherein the randomly-selected expiration parameter comprises an expiration count and an expiration time duration; and

repeatedly presenting symbols in each of the active reel segments, and deactivating the active reel segments that have expired, until a predetermined number of the active reel segments have been deactivated.

54. (canceled)